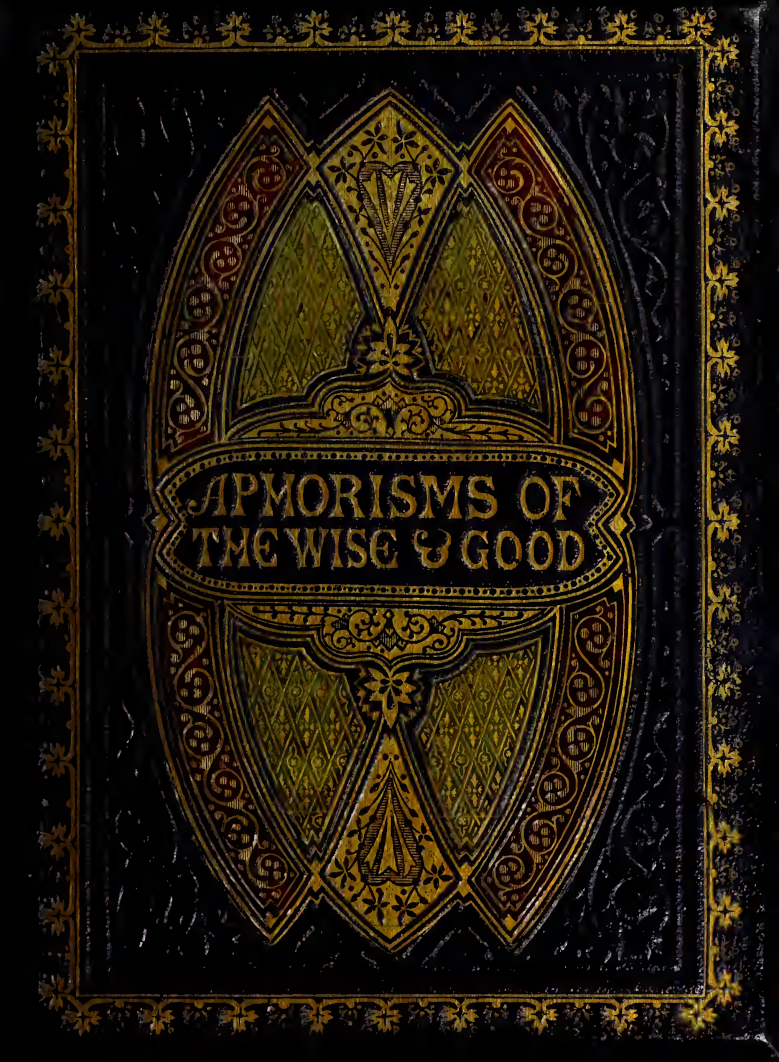
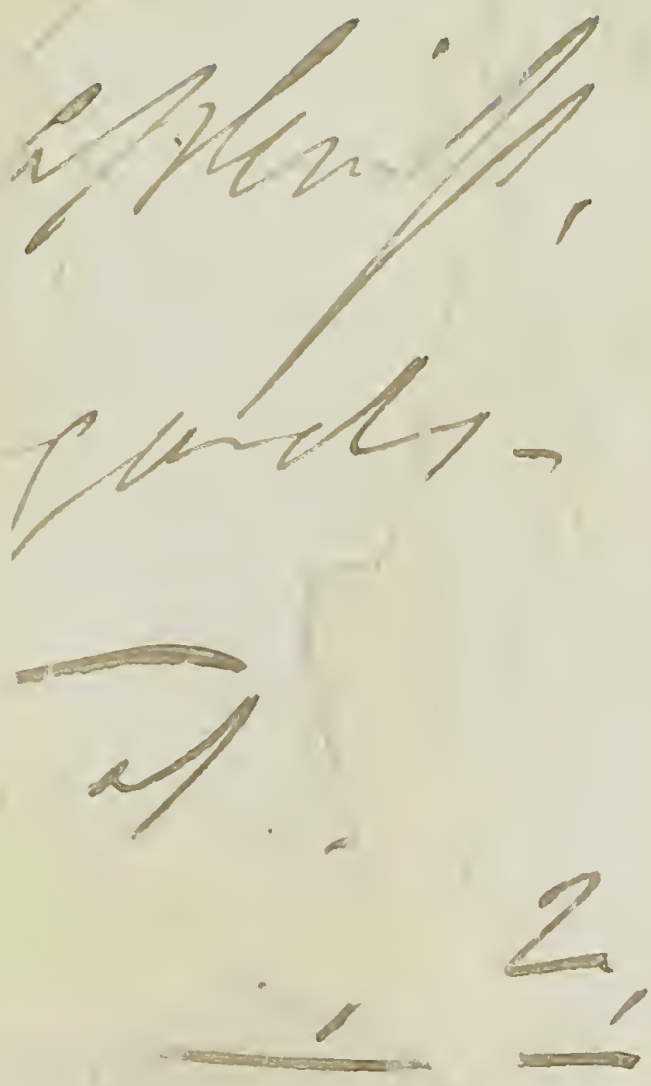
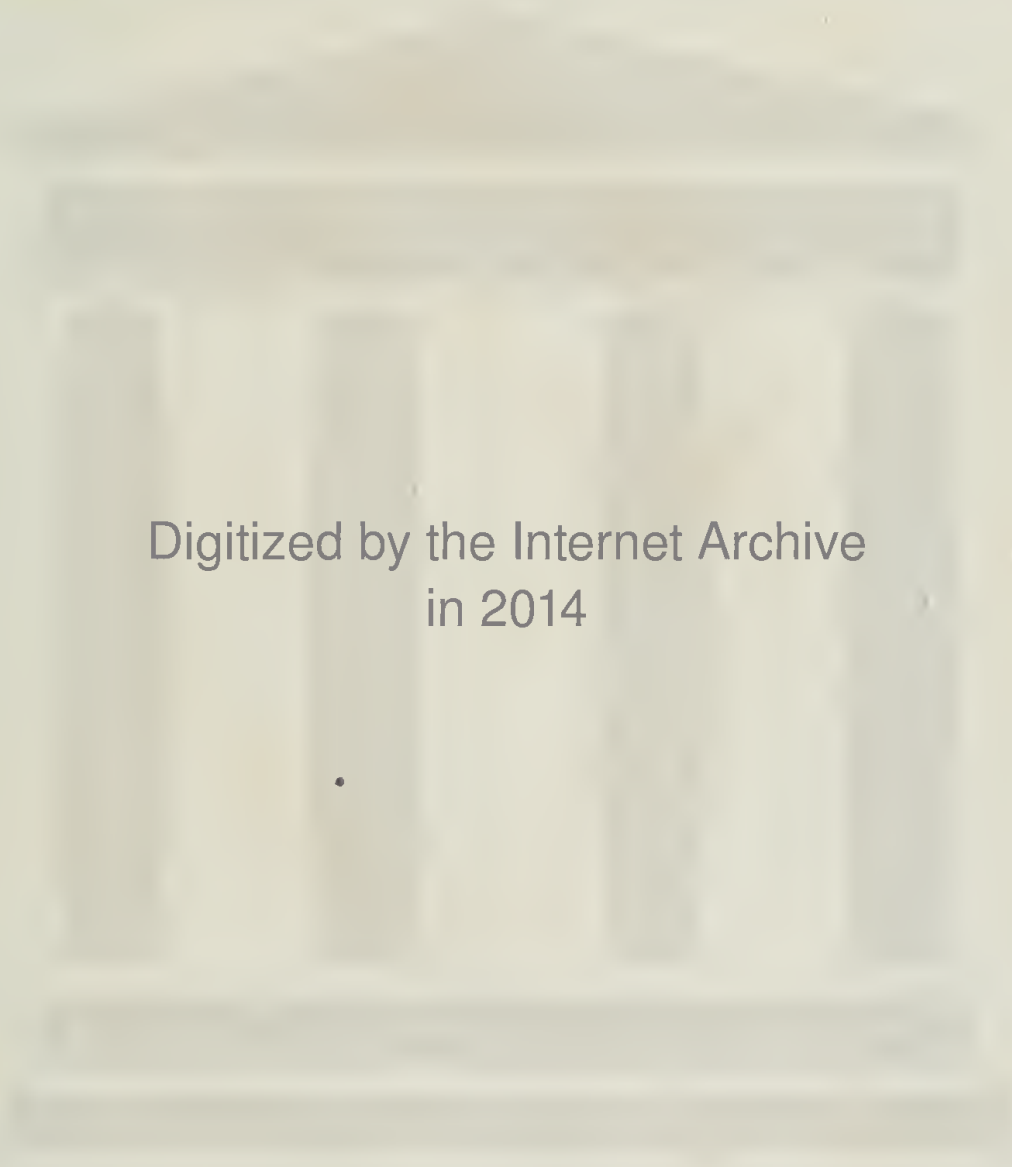

APHORISMS OF
THE WISE & GOOD




John Milton
Born. 1608
Died. 1674


Proverbs
of the
Wise & Good
Illuminated by Samuel Stanesby
London
Griffith and Farran,
corner of
St. Paul's Church yd
WISDOM IS BETTER THAN RUBIES AND ALL THE THINGS THAT MAY BE DESIRED ARE NOT TO BE COMPARED UNTO HER
THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY IS UNDERSTANDING

Illuminated by Sam.l Stanesby.
Printed in Colors by Thomas Bassett.



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Aphorisms of the Wise and Good

Is good almost kill a man as kill a good book. Many a man lives a burden to the earth; but a good book is the precious life blood of a master spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose, to a life beyond death. *Milton.*

Read not to contradict and confute, nor to believe and take for granted, nor to find talk and discourage, but to weigh and consider. *Bacon.*

Actions, looks, words, steps, form the alphabet by which you may spell characters. *Lavater.*

Conceit is to nature what paint is to beauty: it is not only needless, but impairs what it would improve. *Pope.*

HE is the true valiant man that dares nothing but what he may, and fears nothing but what he ought.

Quarles.

The greatest friend of Truth is Time.

Colton.

When you doubt, abstain. *Zoroaster.*

Those who place their affections at first on trifles for amusement, will find those trifles become at last their most serious concerns. *Goldsmith.*

Most men are slaves because they cannot pronounce the monosyable "No!"

Chamfort.

Old friends are best. King James used to ask for his old shoes,—they were easiest to his feet. *Selden.*

Love those who advise, but not those who praise, you. *Boileau.*

MODERATION is the silken string running through the pearl-chain of all virtues. *Fuller.*

'Tis one thing to be tempted,
Another thing to fall. *Shakespeare.*

In taking revenge, a man is but even with his enemy; but in passing it over he is superior. *Bacon.*

It is no small commendation to manage a little, well. He is a good waggoner that can turn in a little room. *Bp. Hall.*

We are always complaining that our days are few, and acting as though there would be no end of them. *Seneca.*

Vain-glorious men are the scorn of wise men, the admiration of fools, the idols of parasites, and the slaves of their own vaunts. *Bacon.*

SILENCE does not always mark wisdom. *S. T. Coleridge.*

Simplicity, of all things, is the hardest to be copied. *Steele.*

Sincerity is like travelling in a plain, beaten road, which commonly brings a man sooner to his journey's end than by-ways, in which men often lose themselves. *Tillotson.*

When will talkers refrain from evil-speaking? When listeners refrain from evil-hearing. *Hare.*

The man that dares traduce, because he can
With safety to himself, is not a man.
Cowper.

The temperate man, like fish in clear streams, untainted with disease, smoothly glides through the soft current of life.
Feltham.

THE tallest trees are most in the power of the winds, and ambitious men of the blasts of fortune. *Penn.*

Talents are nurtured best in solitude,
But character in life's tempestuous sea.
Goethe.

To be angry, is to revenge the faults of others upon ourselves. *Pope.*

Wise anger is like fire from the flint; there is great ado to bring it out; and when it does come, it is out again immediately. *Henry.*

Better to be despised for too anxious apprehensions, than ruined by too confident a security. *Burke.*

God never wrought miracles to convince atheism, because His ordinary works convince it. *Bacon.*

MEASURE not men by Sundays, without regarding what they do all the week after. *Fuller.*

He that studieth revenge keepeth his own wounds green. *Bacon.*

The world is an excellent judge *in general*, but a very bad one *in particular*. *Greville.*

Truth is as impossible to be soiled by any outward touch as the sunbeam. *Milton.*

All truth is precious, if not all divine;
And what dilates the pow'rs must needs refine. *Cowper.*

He that finds truth, without loving her, is like a bat; which, though it have eyes to discern that there is a sun, yet hath so evil eyes, that it cannot delight in the sun. *Sir Philip Sidney.*

NEVER speak but when you have something to say. Whereupon shouldst thou run, seeing thou hast no tidings? *Bishop Butler.*

There is no evil from which Providence may not deduce some good; and yet the evil is not, for that reason, the less to be deprecated. *Southey.*

He that is false to God can never be true to man. *Lord Burleigh.*

It is difficult for a rich man to be humble, but impossible for a proud man to be wise. *Skelton.*

If thou expect death as a friend, prepare to entertain it; if thou expect death as an enemy, prepare to overcome it; death has no advantage but when it comes a stranger. *Quarles.*

SOME men, like pictures, are fitter for a corner than a full light. *Seneca.*

Associate with men of good judgment; for judgment is found in conversation. And we make another man's judgment ours by frequenting his company.
Fuller.

Nor love thy life, nor hate; but whilst thou liv'st
Live well; how long, how short, permit to heaven. *Milton.*

To be always intending to live a new life, but never set about it; this is as if a man should put off eating and drinking and sleeping, from one day and night to another, till he is starved and destroyed. *Tillotson.*

The wisest man may be wiser to-day than he was yesterday, and to-morrow than he is to-day. *Colton.*

GIVE every man thine ear, but few thy voice;
Take each man's censure, but reserve thy judgment. *Shakespeare.*

By the very constitution of our nature, moral evil is its own curse. *Chalmers.*

People seldom improve when they have no model but themselves to copy. *Goldsmith.*

Light cares speak ; great ones are dumb. *Seneca.*

To most men experience is like the stern-lights of a ship, which illumine only the track it has passed. *Coleridge.*

The way to fame is like the way to heaven—through much tribulation. *Sterne.*

None but a fool is always right. *Hare.*

A CRIPPLE in the right way may beat a racer in the wrong one. *Bacon.*

A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds. *Bacon.*

There is nothing so difficult as the art of making advice agreeable. *Spectator.*

Every man ought to aim at eminence, not by putting others down, but by raising himself. *Anon.*

Ambition is the dropsy of the soul,
Whose thirst we must not yield to, but control. *Sedley.*

Ambition often puts men upon doing the meanest offices; so climbing is performed in the same posture with creeping. *Swift.*

Beware equally of a sudden friend and a slow enemy. *Home.*

CHOOSE such pleasures as recreate much, and cost little. *Fuller.*

It is a good divine that follows his own instructions. *Shakespeare.*

Purity is the feminine, truth the masculine, of honour. *Hare.*

Reason cannot show itself more reasonable, than to leave reasoning on things above reason. *Sir Philip Sidney.*

He who reforms himself, has done more towards reforming the public, than a crowd of noisy, impotent patriots. *Lavater.*

Religion is the basis of civil society, and the source of all good, and of all comfort. *Burke.*

Wisdom is oft times nearer when we stoop than when we soar. *Wordsworth.*

IF a man is not rising upwards to be an angel, depend upon it, he is sinking downwards to be a devil.

S. T. Coleridge.

Sweet mercy is nobility's true badge.

Shakespeare.

He that never fears is desperate, and he that always fears is a coward.

Quarles.

The surest remedy against scandal is to live it down. *Boerhaave.*

Moderation is commonly firm, and firmness commonly successful.

Dr. Johnson.

If you desire to be held wise, be so wise as to hold thy tongue. *Quarles.*

If you can be well without health, you may be happy without virtue.

Sir P. Sidney.

ABSENCE of occupation is not rest,
A mind quite vacant, is a mind distress'd. *Cowper.*

He hath riches sufficient who hath enough to be charitable.
Sir T. Browne.

A surfeit of the sweetest things
The deepest loathing to the stomach brings. *Shakespeare.*

The intermediate seasons of the man of pleasure are more heavy than one would impose upon the vilest criminal.
Steele.

Human knowledge is the parent of doubt. *Greville.*

No man was ever so much deceived by another as by himself. *Greville.*

There's not one wise man among twenty will praise himself. *Shakespeare.*

RECREATION is not being idle, but easing the weariest part by change of business. *Locke.*

The world is a great book, of which they that stay at home read only a page. *St. Augustine.*

Knowledge is proud that he has learnt so much;
Wisdom is humble that he knows no more. *Cowper.*

Little can be done well to which the whole mind is not applied.
Dr. Johnson.

Speak not but what may benefit others or yourself; avoid trifling conversations.
Franklin.

Eat not to fulness, drink not to elevation. *Franklin.*

SLEEP is death's younger brother, and so like him, that I never dare trust him without my prayers. *Sir T. Browne.*

Solitude is sometimes best society,
And short retirement urges sweet return. *Milton.*

Through the wide world he only is alone
Who lives not for another. *Rogers.*

There can be no Christianity where there is no charity. *Colton.*

What you keep by you, you may change and mend;
But words once spoken can never be recall'd. *Roscommon.*

Temperance is a bridle of gold; he who uses it rightly, is more like a god than a man. *Burton.*

NONE but cowards lie. *Murphy.*

The good are better made by ill :—
As odours crush'd are sweeter still !
Rogers.

It is not the suffering, but the cause, that makes the martyr. *Henry.*

As threshing separates the corn from the chaff, so does affliction purify virtue.
Burton.

Adversity, how blunt are all the arrows of thy quiver in comparison with those of guilt. *Blair.*

Discretion of speech is more than eloquence. *Bacon.*

There is surely no greater wisdom, than well to time the beginnings and outsets of things. *Bacon.*

SOME there be that shadows kiss ;
Such have but a shadow's bliss.
Shakespeare.

Sloth makes all things difficult, but Industry all easy. *Franklin.*

He that riseth late must trot all day, and shall scarce overtake his business at night. *Franklin.*

He that sips of many arts drinks of none.
Fuller.

To be proud of learning is the greatest ignorance. *Bishop Taylor.*

The virtue of prosperity is temperance ;
The virtue of adversity is fortitude.
Bacon.

Virtue is like a rich stone, best plain set.
Bacon.

IF thou wouldst be borne with, bear with others. *Fuller.*

Let friendship creep gently to a height; if it rush to it, it may soon run itself out of breath. *Fuller.*

A good man is kinder to his enemy than bad men are to their friends.
Bishop Hall.

They that govern must make least noise. *Selden.*

A man must govern himself, ere he be fit to govern a family.
Sir Walter Raleigh.

The sufficiency of my merit is to know that my merit is not sufficient.
St. Augustine.

Search others for their virtues, and thyself for thy vices. *Fuller.*

EAGLES fly alone; they are but sheep who always herd together.

Sir P. Sidney.

Applause is the spur of noble minds, the end and aim of weak ones.

Anon.

Thou oughtest to be nice even to superstition in keeping thy promises; and therefore thou shouldst be equally cautious in making them. *Fuller.*

Men are born with two eyes, but with one tongue, in order that they should see twice as much as they say. *Colton.*

A man who cannot mind his own business is not to be trusted with the king's. *Saville.*

Commend a fool for his wit, or a knave for his honesty, and they will receive you into their bosom. *Fielding.*



IT is brushwood, judgment timber: the one gives the greatest flame, the other yields the durablest heat; and both meeting make the best fire.

Sir Thomas Overbury.

Prize the word of God by the worth of it, that you may not come to prize it by the want of it. *Dyer.*

Man was meant to be not the slave, but the master of circumstances.

Kingsley.

A good word is an easy obligation; but not to speak ill, requires only our silence, which costs us nothing.

Tillotson.

To begin sin, is to lay a foundation for a continuance. *Bunyan.*

When thou prayest, rather let thy heart be without *words*, than thy words without *heart*. *Bunyan.*

HE lives long that lives well; and time misspent, is not lived, but lost.

Fuller.

Learn to hold thy tongue; five words cost Zacharias forty weeks' silence.

Fuller.

Dare do all that may become a man;
Who dares do more, is none.

Shakespeare.

Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man, and writing an exact man. *Bacon.*

Good breeding shows itself most, where to an ordinary eye it appears the least. *Addison.*

Where there is much pretension, much has been borrowed; nature never pretends. *Lavater.*

WE have never so much cause to fear as when we fear nothing. *Bishop Hall.*

We write our mercies in the dust, but our afflictions we engrave in marble.
Bishop Hall.

We shall always find mercy behind a cloud if we look for it. *Hannah More.*

Be not ashamed to ask if you doubt; but be ashamed to be reproached for the same fault twice. *Earl of Bedford.*

Love not money, nor the world; use them only, and they will serve you: but if you love them, you serve them.
William Penn.

By examining the tongue of the patient, physicians find out the diseases of the body, and philosophers the diseases of the mind. *Jortin.*

MEN are sometimes accused of pride, merely because their accusers would be proud in their places. *Shenstone.*

Be wise to-day; 'tis madness to defer;
Next day the fatal precedent will plead;
Thus on, till wisdom is push'd out of life. *Young.*

If thou art a master, be sometimes blind; if a servant, sometimes deaf. *Fuller.*

Murmur at nothing; if our ills are reparable, it is ungrateful; if remediless, it is vain. *Colton.*

In contemplation of created things
By steps we may ascend to God. *Milton.*

The seeds of repentance are sown in youth by pleasure; but the harvest is reaped in age by pain. *Colton.*

RESOLVE to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve. *Franklin.*

To think well is the way to act rightly. *Paley.*

The surest way not to fail is to determine to succeed. *Sheridan.*

We make laws, but we follow customs. *Lady Montague.*

There is no book upon which we can rest, in a dying moment, but the Bible. *Selden.*

There are no songs comparable to the songs of Sion, no orations equal to those of the prophets, and no politics like those which the Scriptures teach. *Milton.*

Duties are ours, events are God's. *Cecil.*

O man can be provident of his time, who is not prudent in the choice of his company. *Jeremy Taylor.*

Wealth is not the way to heaven, but the contrary; let all your care be how to *live well*, and you may be sure that you will never *die poor*. *Bishop Henshaw.*

It is a little learning, and very little, which makes men conclude hastily.
Jeremy Taylor.

Sin and punishment are like the shadow and the body, never apart.
Bishop Henshaw.

He that smarts for speaking truth, hath a plaster in his own conscience. *Fuller.*

He who is always his own counsellor will often have a fool for his client.
Hunter.

IT is better to have peace without plenty, than plenty without peace.

Seed.

Truth will be uppermost some time or other, like cork, though kept down in the water. *Sir William Temple.*

One sin another doth provoke.

Shakespeare.

Who does the best his circumstance allows,
Does well, acts nobly; angels could do no more. *Young.*

It is far more easy to acquire a fortune like a knave, than to expend it like a gentleman. *Colton.*

He wants wit, that wants resolved will. *Shakespeare.*

The intellect of the wise is like glass: admits the light of heaven, and reflects it. *Hare.*

UMILITY that low sweet root
From which all heavenly virtues shoot. *Moore.*

Hurry is the mark of a weak mind, dispatch of a strong one. *Colton.*

Hypocrisy, the only evil that walks
Invisible except to God alone. *Milton.*

Religion is in its essence the most gentlemanly thing in the world. It will *alone* gentilize if unmixed with cant; and I know nothing else that will *alone*. *T. S. Coleridge.*

Repentance is not one single action, but a course. *South.*

It is one thing to take God and heaven for your portion, as believers do, and another thing to be desirous of it as a reserve when you can keep the world no longer. *Baxter.*

BE content with one good employment, for if you understand two at a time, people will give you business in neither. *Goldsmith.*

Trust him little who praises all, him less who censures all, and him least who is indifferent about all. *Lavater.*

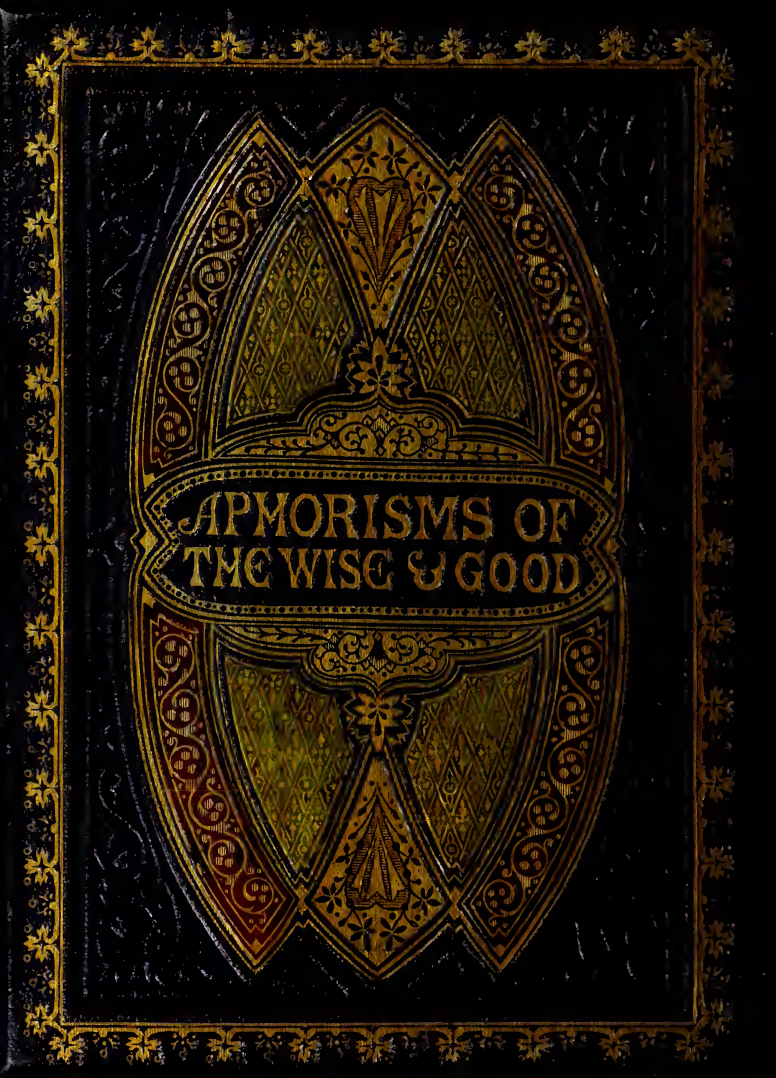
Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. *Solomon.*



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